



Australia's
Global
University

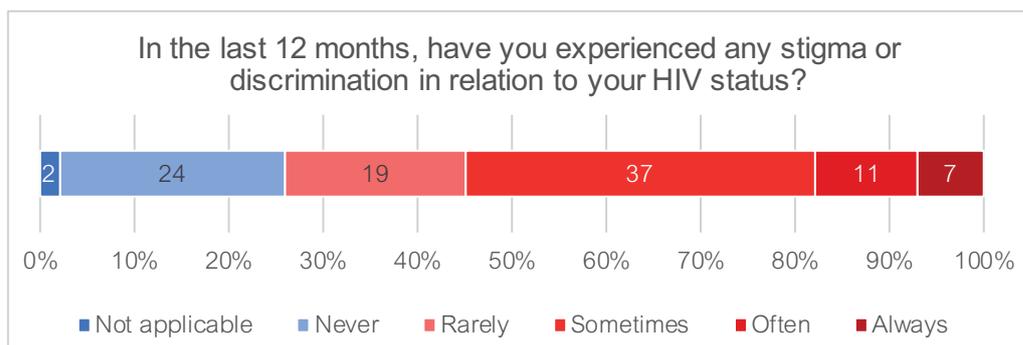
Stigma Indicators Monitoring Project People living with HIV



Stigma has a major impact on health outcomes for people living with blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections. Australia has five national strategies addressing HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections, each with a clear goal to eliminate the negative impact of stigma and discrimination on people's health.

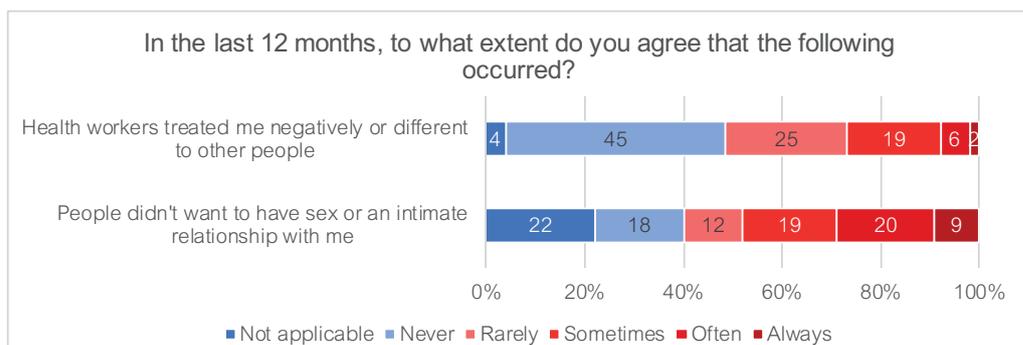
Between 2016-2018, the Centre for Social Research in Health at UNSW Sydney conducted national surveys on a rolling basis to investigate stigma and discrimination from multiple perspectives in relation to HIV.

In 2016, an online survey of people living with HIV was conducted to investigate their experiences of stigma in relation to their HIV, using a newly developed stigma indicator.



74% of people living with HIV reported any stigma related to their HIV status. Stigma did not occur regularly, however, with participants more likely to report experiencing it 'rarely' or 'sometimes' (56%).

More than half of respondents reported experiencing negative or different treatment by health workers (52%). Most indicated that this occurred 'rarely' or 'sometimes' (44%). Three out of five participants reported that people did not want to have sex or an intimate relationship with them (60%), with 29% stating this had 'often' or 'always' occurred.



Currently under way, the next phase of this project is expanding data collection with the stigma indicator from people living with HIV. A revised survey has been developed and second round data collection was conducted in 2018. Being able to quantify the experience of stigma within this group is an important first step towards introducing evidence-based strategies to eliminate its negative effects.

181 people
completed the survey

88%
male

71%
gay

86%
acquired HIV from having sex with a man

99%
were on HIV treatment

94%
had an undetectable viral load

If the results presented here have upset you in any way, we encourage you to seek support from the National Association of People with HIV Australia (1800 259 666) or Lifeline (13 11 44).

This project was supported by a grant from the Australian Government Department of Health.

We would like to acknowledge the invaluable support of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) and the National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWA) and their member organisations in assisting with recruiting survey participants.

We would also like to thank everyone who completed the survey for their willingness to participate in this project.

For more information on this project, please see the full report available at: <http://bit.ly/stigma-indicators>





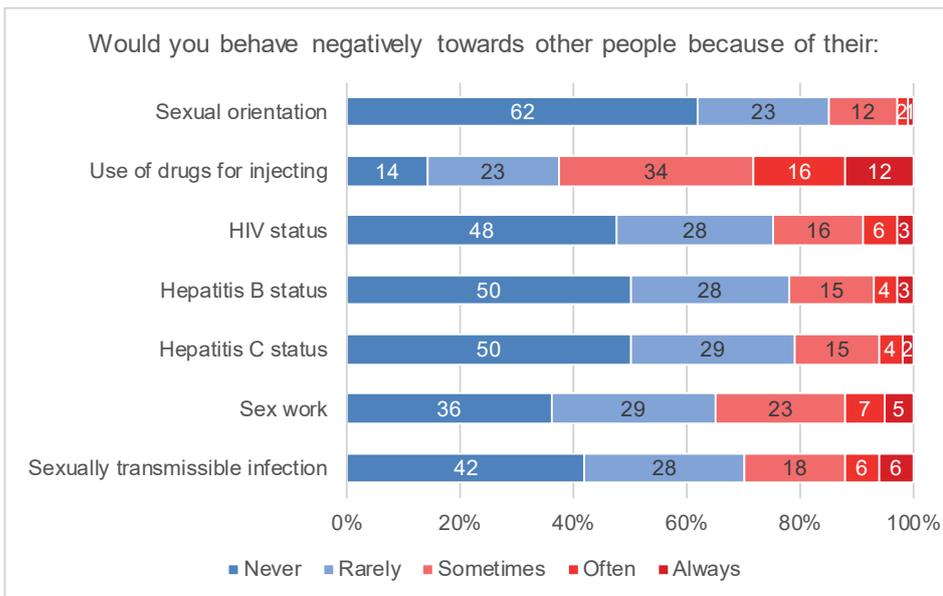
Australia's
Global
University

Stigma Indicators Monitoring Project General public



Stigma has a major impact on health outcomes for people living with blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections. Australia has five national strategies addressing HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmissible infections. Each strategy has a clear goal to eliminate the negative impact of stigma and discrimination on people's health.

Between 2017-18, the Centre for Social Research in Health at UNSW Sydney included questions in the Australian Survey of Social Attitudes (AuSSA). These questions investigated the extent to which a representative sample of the Australian public would discriminate against other people.



Injecting drug use was the attribute most likely to be stigmatised by participants (86%), with 28% indicating they would 'often' or 'always' behave negatively towards people who inject drugs. This was followed by sex workers, who 64% of participants reported they would behave negatively towards. Sexual orientation was the least likely attribute to receive negative treatment (38%), while participants reported they would behave negatively towards people with the remaining attributes in 50-58% of cases.

Currently under way, the next phase of this project is expanding data collection to focus on the experiences of stigma and discrimination amongst priority populations identified by the national strategies, namely, people living with HIV, people living with viral hepatitis, people who inject drugs, gay and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, and people living with sexually transmissible infections. Being able to quantify the expressed stigma towards people from these groups is an important first step towards introducing evidence-based strategies to eliminate stigma's negative effects.

1,001 people
completed the survey

57%
female

54 years old
average age

2%
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander

33%
completed university

59%
employed

61%
lived in major cities

If the results presented here have upset you in any way, we encourage you to seek support from Lifeline (13 11 44).

This project was supported by a grant from the Australian Government Department of Health.

AuSSA is conducted by the Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated (ACSPRI).

We would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of the project advisory committee.

We would like to thank everyone who completed the survey.

For more information on this project, please see the website:
<http://bit.ly/stigma-indicators>



Centre for Social Research in Health